

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND**

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## THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

**Feb. 2019**

**Vol. 52, #6**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

**Feb. 3, 10:30 am**                      **Rev. Dawn Sangrey**  
**UU Theology: Who Am I?**

What are people like? What is the nature of humans? Where do they fit in the natural order of things? Are humans good or evil, worthy or unworthy, powerful or impotent, in control or out of control, eternal or ephemeral? This sermon is the first in the series of Five Questions, Theology for Unitarian Universalists.

**Coordinator: Rob Young**

**Feb. 24, 10:30 am**                      **Rev. Dawn Sangrey**  
**A Time to Break Silence**

Over fifty years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" at the Riverside Church in Manhattan. For the first time in public, King opposed the war in Vietnam and called for "a true revolution of values" in America. We will revisit his message in the light of our current national situation.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

**Feb. 10, 10:30 am**                      **UU Youth**  
**Share the Love**

The youth will lead us in a reflection on what it means to "Side with Love". How do we, as people of faith, respond to inequality and oppression? Where is there opportunity to create more inclusive community.

**Coordinators: Terri Pahucki & Jane Cowan**

**Feb. 17, 10:30**                      **Rob Young**  
**Science Fiction –**

**To Boldly Go Where No UU has Gone Before**  
Religion frequently takes a central role in popular science fiction. From various depictions of God, angels and the afterlife, religion is a heavily used plot tool in sci-fi writing. Join us this Sunday as we blast off to explore strange new worlds, seek out popular uses of religion in science fiction and boldly go where no UU has gone before.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

### Special Reminder



Check either Facebook, our website or your email before leaving home if it has snowed in the 24 hours prior to a service.

We want to keep you all safe and sound!

# MINISTER'S COLUMN

## February 2019

*Tell me about despair, yours, and I  
will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile, the world goes on.*

In her poem “Wild Geese,” Mary Oliver asks us to notice the contrast between what’s going on in our immediate world—our preoccupying and important problems—and the steady reliability of the natural world, where we all have a place. You can find the whole poem in our hymnal (#490) and, of course, online. Mary Oliver died last week. I am writing on the day of the big January snow storm that cancelled our service. Outside my window a coating of ice is forming on every branch.

You have probably heard by now that I am retiring in September. You and I have a little over eight months to go. What shall we do with this “wild and precious” time? (Mary Oliver again.) What is unfinished between us? What do we want to be sure to say and do before this ministry comes to an end?

I’m looking forward to this time of transition. For me it’s a time to focus and pay attention (“Lessons for Living a Life: 1. Pay attention. 2. Be astonished. 3. Tell about it.”) When a minister leaves, people usually have a lot of mixed feelings. Please let me know what you’re thinking and feeling.

The congregation is in the midst of some important work, which I hope we can complete before the end of the summer. We will be considering how to live into the congregation’s new mission. We will be

refining our covenant together and learning what it means to live in covenant. The Board of Trustees is convening a Strategic Planning Task Force to move forward with the congregation’s vision, articulated last fall at our retreat. And the BOT will appoint a Search Committee to find new staff: a Director of Religious Education and a Minister.

Meanwhile our world goes on. Worship services and religious education classes will be offered every week. The youth will gather.

UUCR will be anchored in potlucks and work parties, committee meetings, the pledge drive, the annual meeting. We will offer a UU Curious? class and welcome new members. Our Small Group Ministry theology group will work their way through the 5 Questions. We will carefully follow the potential sale of the Striker Property as it unfolds.

I have confidence in UUCR’s resilience and commitment. We have much to do together before we part, and I look forward to this winter, spring, and summer with you.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting  
Minister

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## RE NEWS

On February 10th the youth in our Coming of Age class will lead us in our annual Share the Love Sunday service. This month the class is focused on worship and spirituality. According to the UUA website, "We gather in worship to find meaning and live more deeply. Worship creates connections within, among, and beyond us, calling us to our better selves, calling us to live with wisdom and compassion." The youth are exploring what worship and spirituality means to them personally, and how they find expression in UU community. This service will be a chance for all of us to learn from their insights; it will be followed by valentine card-making to share the love.

February also marks the second semester in our RE calendar. The children in our Timeless Themes class will be moving into the Christian scriptures, focusing on the teachings and stories of Jesus, as they are told in the Gospels. We are continuing to explore the Six Sources in children's worship and to ask theological questions in all our classes. Our task in religious education is not to provide the answers to the questions, but to open the space for questions to be asked, to be explored and unpacked together. Creativity and insight comes through thoughtful conversation. Our teachers and assistants are guides and fellow explorers.; we are learning alongside our children and youth. We hope you will join us on this exciting journey!

February 3	RE classes, CWS (children's worship service)
10	All Ages Worship Service- <i>Share the Love</i>
17	RE classes
24	RE classes

Terri Pahucki  
 Director of Religious Education  
 dre@uurocklandny.org

## BOT NEWS

### Staffing Searches

Over the course of the spring and summer months, we as a congregation, through Search Committee efforts, will engage in a search for a new director of religious education, with Terri moving further toward ministry, and a new minister, with Rev. Dawn's retirement. We are starting to get our ducks in a row to begin this process, and you will hear more as we progress. We have been extremely blessed by the service that these two wonderful women have given to this congregation and we embrace the challenge we face in finding people to succeed them.

### Tree Maintenance

We love our "home in the woods" here at UUCR. While we love the trees that surround us, one thing that goes along with having a home in the woods, is maintaining the trees: pruning or removing those that pose a hazard to our building, and more importantly, to the people who use the building and call it "home". Ken d'Oronzio has been working with the members of the Buildings & Grounds Committee and several tree services to get assessments of the trees and quotes related to maintenance. It is anticipated that this work will commence shortly to eliminate any hazards that exist. Thank to Ken and the committee for their work on getting this done and keeping us safe!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Hillary Torres  
 Chair, Board of Trustees

## TREASURER'S NEWS

January begins the last half of our fiscal year. You will receive shortly, if you have not received yet, your end of year pledge statements and your 2018 tax contributions. The Congregation should be proud. Consistently our largest plate contributions each month are collected when we are collecting for the MLK Center in Spring Valley. It is evidence of the serious commitment we have for this worthy organization.

Barbara Francis, Treasurer

## 7 PRINCIPLES OF UU

*Very often our office receives calls asking for information about our UU beliefs. Below are the 7 principles as well as a list of famous Unitarians.*

There are seven Principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## FAMOUS UNITARIANS

John Quincy Adams - US president.

Louisa May Alcott - children's writer.

P. T. Barnum - circus owner.

Béla Bartók - composer.

Dorothea Dix - social reformer.

Ralph Waldo Emerson - writer and thinker.

Elizabeth Gaskell - novelist.

Edvard Greig - composer.

## FEBRUARY GREETERS

*We welcome all to our services!*

Feb. 3: Susan Brunelli and Sally Andriette

Feb. 10: Emily Kratzer and Nel Hubbard

Feb. 17: Alex Finger and Sarah Gordon

Feb. 24: Trudy Pojman and Susan Brunelli

**Nel Hubbard – Coffee Hostess**

*Thank You*

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 3, 5 Questions: 12:30-2:30 pm

Feb. 10, BOT Meeting: 12:15 pm

Feb. 23, Private Event

Feb. 27, Potluck after service

Al-Anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am

Yoga meets Thursdays at 9:00 am

*Happy  
Valentines  
Day*

**Deadline for February Newsletter  
Sunday, Feb. 17, 6:00 pm**